

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** [McKim, Krista](#); [Burdick, Melanie](#); [Blathras, Constantine](#)  
**Subject:** Back Forty Mine, Stephenson MI.  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 14, 2016 2:54:21 PM

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Earlier this fall I sent a letter to your Regional Water Quality Division expressing concerns over a proposed sulfide mine on the banks of the beautiful Menominee River on the Wisconsin/Michigan border. Aquila Resources Inc. is seeking the permit which is being reviewed by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. My concerns were over the fact that Michigan has control of it's water quality issues, and their decisions could have a major impact on the Great Lakes system. I was worried that your agency was taking a hands off approach to this permit process. Mr. Korleski answered my letter recently and included copies of correspondence sent to the Michigan DEQ from your Air Permit, Water Division and NPDES Programs Branch. I was very happy to see the concerns and suggestions you had passed on to the DEQ. As you know, the Menominee River was a "concerned" body of water and millions have been spent on various clean up initiatives in the pass years to deal with the arsenic and PCB problems. The Menominee River is just starting to breath again, and wild rice has been planted at its mouth. Now she faces an even greater problem with a sulfide mine on its banks and the distinct possibility of acid mine drainage and sulfate and cyanide pollution.

This mine is simply not a benefit to anyone other than its investors, and public response has been over 90 percent negative. I know your agency will continue with due diligence in this matte, and do everything possible to protect a major tributary to the Great Lakes. I know, with the incoming federal administration, you will have your work cut out for you; and I want to thank you for your efforts in advance.

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